

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated October 10, 2006. Claims 12 and 19 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 13-18 and 20-24 are pending, of which claims 13 and 20 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant thanks Examiner Yenke for the indication that claims 13-18 and 20-24 are allowed.

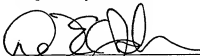
In the Office Action, claims 12 and 19 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1, and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,831,700 ("Hoshikawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,269 ("Baldwin"). As indicated above, claims 12 and 19 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Furthermore, the Applicant reserves the right to further pursue these claims in a continuing application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112 and § 103 rejection, as moot, are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, no other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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